



ARBOR NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Within the stories of my great-grandparents' immigration to the USA were arrivals in places like the Southside of Chicago, Galesburg, Illinois and Selah, Washington. In each case they arrived with meager amounts of money, limited ability to speak the language, and a desire to make a new life in a new place where they needed to learn a whole set of new customs.

One of the first places they invariably stopped was the local Missionsförbundet church (the earliest name of what would become the Evangelical Covenant Church). These were places where they could encounter their religious traditions and find spiritual sustenance, but more than that they were locations that they could connect to community that served as a sort of one-stop-shop that helped them access some of the resources they required to settle into the new life they were seeking. These churches were places where they could hear about potential sources of employment, where they could inquire about housing, where they would meet the people who would become their friends and sometimes even the spouses with whom they would start new families. For my forbearers these churches were places where people could be integrated not just into a spiritual community, but into the wider communities of the new places they found themselves living.

In the early days of the Covenant Church, congregations began to dot both the urban and the rural landscape. In places like Chicago and Minneapolis, Hilmar, California and Swede Bend, Iowa churches were formed that served this dual purpose for waves of primarily Swedish immigrants; providing spiritual resources, while simultaneously serving as hubs of social capital for people eager to find stability and opportunity in a new place far from the homes they left behind.

I suspect that many of your families stories share similar contours. Perhaps within another denominational heritage other than the Covenant, maybe one that had another set of linguistic or cultural connection where a family member found not just a congregation, but a whole set of resources that helped make their new surroundings feel a bit more like home. Without having delved too deeply into their history, I also

suspect that our friends at Memorial UCC have a legacy that mirrors many Covenant congregations. In their case welcoming and helping to integrate waves of German-speaking immigrants who arrived in proximity to their original location near Camp Randall during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Part of the unfolding vision for the future of Arbor Covenant's congregational resources is to embrace this time-honored role churches have played for generations. Forging relationships with Jewish Social Services, the Madison Refugee Union, and other organizations that are working to settle immigrants and refugees, along with committing some of our times, energy, and space to support individuals and families that have recently arrived in South Madison — these are steps that parallel the commitments that churches have pursued for decades and decades. It was for them and remains for us a way to fulfill the biblical imperative of offering welcome to strangers and hospitality and hope to vulnerable people.

The immigrants and refugees we hope to support in the next season of our ministry are not Swedish or German speaking, and their personal spiritual stories may differ from many of those that churches have welcomed in decades past, but their needs remain remarkably similar: community in which to belong, a place to learn about needed opportunities, access to everyday resources that can help them feel at home. Congregations like Arbor are uniquely positioned to help offer this support. Because of our proximity to members of this community and our capacity to be a gathering place, we can be for them what churches have been for generations — a welcoming community filled with connections and opportunity.





ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

AGENDA

February 5, 2023

11:00 a.m. at Arbor or on Zoom

- I. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER (PASTOR PETER)
- II. BEHAVIORAL COVENANT (JAN GIETZEL)
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 19, 2022 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES (JAN GIETZEL)
- IV. PASTOR PETER'S REPORT INCLUDING "GOOD NEIGHBOR HOUSE" CONCEPT REPORT AND CONTINUING PART-TIME STATUS (PASTOR PETER)
- V. REPORT ON ARBOR/MUCC COLLABORATION TASK FORCE (MARK HANSON)
- VI. UPDATE ON PROPOSED SALE OF ARBOR PROPERTY TO COMMON WEALTH DEVELOPMENT (MARK HANSON, KEN LUND AND PASTOR PETER MORRIS)
VOTE ON ACCEPTING CWD'S OFFER TO PURCHASE (JAN GIETZEL)
- VI. FINANCIAL REPORT INCLUDING 2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL (ULRIKA SWANSON)
VOTE TO APPROVE 2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL (JAN GIETZEL)
- VII. ELECTION OF 2023 LT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (JAN GIETZEL)
VOTE TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
- VII. CLOSING PRAYER (PASTOR PETER)

WORSHIP SERVICES

Arbor Covenant Church now worships at Memorial United Church of Christ in Fitchburg.

Here are several ways you can worship at Memorial UCC on Sundays at 9:30 AM.

YOU MAY ATTEND IN PERSON

5705 Lacy Road Fitchburg

YOU MAY ATTEND on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/773905311?pwd=NDITTGk0NlpZaDNvZXpodWxvZFIQQT09-success>

Meeting ID 773905311 Password 5705

Or call in 1 -312-626-6799

(depending on your phone carrier, long distance charges may apply)

(If you experience technical difficulties during worship on Zoom, consider shifting to YouTube to join the service.

YOU MAY ATTEND ON YOUTUBE <https://www.youtube.com/user/MemorialUCC>

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION TIME

Are You Missing Getting Together With Your Arbor Friends On A Regular Basis?

How about getting together at Arbor and sharing some conversation and coffee together in the Fellowship Room on the 1st Sunday of every month after the worship service at Memorial United Church of Christ. We'll start at about 11:15 a.m. Depending on the wishes of the group, maybe we can expand it to a simple, light lunch to enjoy as a community each month. Many of us miss the relationships that formed over the years and decided this might be a small way to try to address that loss.

Our first gathering will be this Sunday, February 5th after the Annual Meeting in our Fellowship Room or on Zoom. Hope to see you then!



Black History Month is a time to celebrate history and to come together as we create more inclusive and vibrant communities for generations to come. Black History Month began in 1976 but was initiated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who is known as the “Father of Black History.” He started the first Negro History Week in 1926 to ensure students would learn Black History

WATCH FOR AN EMAIL ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN **Just Bakery** IN FEBRUARY

Let's Support Just Bakery Once a Month in



JUST BAKERY

A JustDane Initiative

2023!

Dear Friends,

The MUCC Outreach Committee is asking for your generous support of Just Bakery in the New Year. You will have 12 opportunities--one per month--to order baked goods from this amazing training program. Let's continue to make a sweet impact in the community, and be sure to check out their NEW items. I'm over the moon excited for the gluten sensitive chocolate caramel muffins made with almond flour, but don't miss the whoopie pies, Norwegian crisp bread, cinnamon rolls, and more!

Sincerely,

Tiffani Roltgen

Pre-ordered items will be available for pick up at church after 9:15 AM on Sunday January 22. Please note all unclaimed items will be donated or frozen for future fellowship use.

Follow these 4 easy steps to place your online order by 12 noon on Wednesday January 18.

- 1) Add items to your cart at: <https://justdane.org/shop/>
- 2) For Delivery & Pickup Options, choose "Curbside Pickup." Do not enter any delivery or pick up information.
- 3) On the checkout screen, type "1/22/23 MEMORIAL UCC" in the order notes section near the bottom of the screen. If you miss this step, your items will not be part of the Memorial UCC group order. All items will be delivered to church on Sunday, January 22, by 9:15 AM.
- 4) Pay via credit card, and wait patiently for deliciousness to arrive at church on Sunday, January 22 after 9:15 AM.

Why Just Bakery?

Just Bakery is a 12-week educational and vocational training program. The program works with individuals who are experiencing significant barriers to employment (homelessness, justice involved, lack of education, and/or a lack of work history or skills) and provides training in commercial kitchen baking, nutrition, cost control, customer service, marketing, and sales.

RE-MEMBER - COME JOIN US in SOUTH DAKOTA!

July 14-22, 2023.



We are excited to announce that Memorial UCC and Arbor Covenant Church will be participating in a cross-generational learning and service experience at [Re-Member](#) in South Dakota. "Re-Member... brings hundreds of volunteers to Pine Ridge (reservation) each year. Our volunteers complete home improvement projects, work in our community gardens, and immerse themselves in Lakota culture." You can view a sample itinerary for the week [HERE](#).

Volunteers must be aged 12 or older. Confirmation youth and students in high school are encouraged to participate! The cost per person for the week at Re-Member is \$749 (this includes housing, food, and programming 7/15-7/21). There will be an additional cost for transportation, lodging, and food as we drive to (and from) South Dakota. **Anyone interested in going must sign-up and submit the 60% Deposit for Re-Member by February 26.**

Would you like to learn more about the 2023 trip to Re-Member? Sign up in the narthex. An informational meeting will be scheduled soon for those interested. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Kris. or Joyce Boggess (219-3673)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, February 5, Alia Stevenson and Gabe Doyle with the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness will be joining us in worship. They will be updating us on what the FFBWW accomplished in 2022 and has planned for 2023. Alia and Gabe will be available to answer additional questions you have following the service during coffee hour. The question and answer session will be held in the sanctuary and will be blended - join us in-person or on Zoom!

Alia Stevenson, MS

Chief Programs Officer
Foundation for Black Women's Wellness

Alia Stevenson is the Chief Programs Officer for the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness. She brings a track record of experience in shaping notable health and racial equity efforts through her previous roles as a Policy, Planning & Evaluation Manager and Health Equity Coordinator for Public Health Madison & Dane County. She has spent her career in the field of organizational development, embedding health and racial equity into agency operations, policies and programming. Alia brings a systems approach to assessing and improving environments that center the needs of, and empowers those most impacted by inequities.



BLACK WOMEN'S WELLNESS FOUNDATION

It's that time of year to make good on our pledge of \$10,000/year for five years to the foundation for Black Women's Wellness. This is a partnership that we joined in to help reach out and support those in our communities who have faced systemic racism. We exceeded this goal in 2021 and 2022. Let's do it again for 2023! By doing this fundraising annually, it brings back this racial disparity to our minds, even when the news cycle has moved on.

We chose to focus our fundraising efforts yearly during the season of Epiphany in recognition of the gifts given to Jesus by the Magi. If you'd like to make a donation before the end of the year, it is welcome. You can send a check to Memorial UCC with "Black Women's Wellness" in the memo line or you can make a donation through [Memorial's PayPal Account](#), selecting the option for Black Women's Wellness.

**Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry
Item of the month is Paper Towels**

February Birthdays

- 3** **Charlie Volk**
- 12** **Rachel Woofter**
- 14** **Michelle Stachowiak (Age 7)**
- 14** **Lee Fledderjohann**

FEBRUARY 2023 CALENDAR

			1	2	3 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry ACC	4
5 9:30 AM Worship Memorial UCC 11:00 AM Annual Congregational meeting ACC Coffee and Social Time After Meeting	6	7	8	9	10 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry ACC	11
12 9:30 AM Worship Memorial UCC	13	14 6:45 PM ACC Leadership Team	15 Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm Memorial UCC (in person or Zoom)	16 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry ACC	17 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry ACC	18
19 9:30 AM Worship Memorial UCC	20	21	22	23	24 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry ACC	25
26 9:30 AM Worship Memorial UCC (Potluck after service)	27	28				